

October 8, 1997

Marcy Cunkleman
RR 1, Box 541
Saltsburg, PA 15681

Dear Marcy,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Brewer's Blackbird you saw at Saltsburg, Indiana County on 16 November 1995 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. This record circulated through the committee for two rounds and caused some interesting discussion among the members. Unfortunately, on both rounds a majority vote was not reached for acceptance. Some members were concerned that the structure of the bill was not described adequately enough to rule out similar species. Bill structure is an important field characteristic in separating Brewer's Blackbird from other blackbirds and grackles. Because of this, the committee decided to err on the side of caution rather than accept this report.

This of course, does not mean that the bird was not a Brewer's Blackbird, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 861-04-1995

861-04-1995

20RC

11-16-95

Brewer's Blackbird
I 1st

Saltsburg, Indiana Co.

NOTICED THE BIRD ~ 1:00pm
ON THURSDAY, NOV 16th 1995. IT FLEW IN
WITH SOME STARLINGS. I GLANCED AT IT - ASSUMED
IT WAS ANOTHER STARLING (~ SIZE A STARLING), THEN
THOUGHT IT WAS A REDWING BLK BIRD BECAUSE
OF SIZE & TAIL.

THE CLOSER I LOOKED THE MORE
DIFFERENCES I SAW.

THE HEAD WAS PURPLISH (LIKE A
SHROUD OVER HEAD & AROUND NECK)

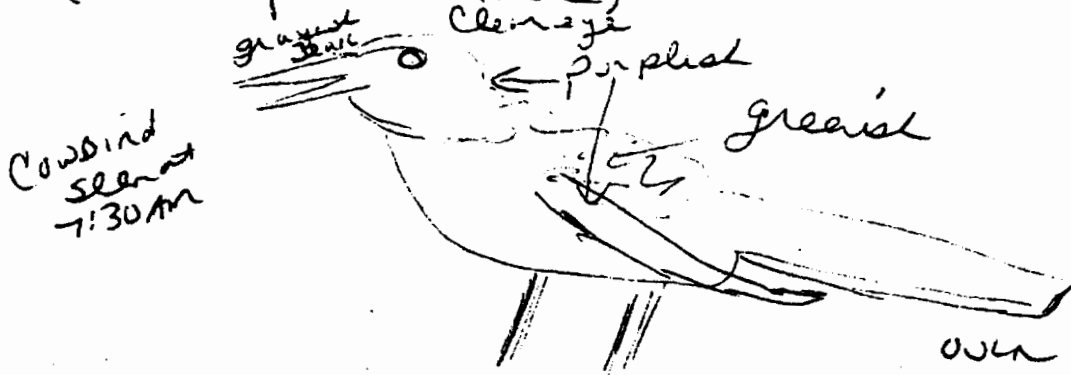
THE BACK WAS GREENISH BROWN
WITH WINGS A PURPLISH BROWN COLOR.

BEAK WAS LIKE A REDWING BLK BIRD
LEGS WERE DARK - EYE WAS LIGHT.

LOOKED LIKE A SMALL COMMON
GRACKLE - BUT THE TAIL WAS STRAIGHT
ACROSS - NOT THE LONG WEDGE / ANGLE SHAPE.
ALSO MUCH SHORTER.

DIDN'T HAVE THE JERKY MOTION LIKE
GRACKLES. ALSO HAD MORE OF A STANCE OF
A REDWING THAN A GRACKLE

WALKED AROUND (~ 5:00pm) EATING
CORN, SEED, & NO MELT SUEET - ALSO DRANK WATER
WITH IN A 8' AREA ON THE GROUND
(UNDER PICNIC TABLE)



Marcy Cunkleman

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round #2 of 2

Species: Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Date of Sighting: 16 November 1995 to 16 November 1995

Location: SALTSBURG

County: INDIANA

Observer(s): Marcy Cunkleman

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: Marcy Cunkleman

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)**

Date of Sighting: **16 November 1995 to 16 November 1995**

Location: **SALTSBURG**

County: **INDIANA**

Observer(s): **Marcy Cunkleman**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Marcy Cunkleman**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION								

Comments: *Send for second Round*

Signature (Secretary):

F. Haas

Date:

2-22-96